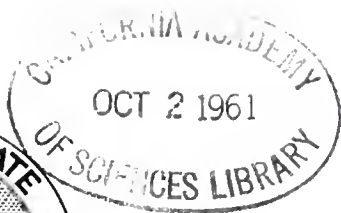


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Volume 43

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IN THE FIELD — AUGUST

Trip to Rodeo Lagoon—The customary late summer fog greeted 28 birders on the morning of August 20. We met at the north end of the Golden Gate Bridge and proceeded through the tunnel to Fort Barry. The majority decided to hike the three miles from the parking area through the grounds of the fort to Rodeo Lagoon and the ocean. Many White-crowned Sparrows were seen; American Goldfinches exhibited their confusing transitional plumage, and there were many immature of both American and Lesser Goldfinches. Noteworthy were the large numbers of Rough-winged Swallows diving and skimming over the lagoons. Much excitement was caused by the strident chuckling calls of a Virginia Rail in the reeds near the first lagoon. Two of us were fortunate enough to see it walk across an open space. Four species of heron were seen in graceful flight or perched motionless on the tops of poles in the water. Not many field trips can produce the rarity that turned up in Rodeo Lagoon; one and all were startled to see majestically gliding over the brackish water, an Australian Black Swan—a happy escapee from who knows where?

The ocean beach was somewhat disappointing compared to former years, but we did see one Black Oystercatcher perched on the low rocks at the base of the point, and a few Wandering Tattlers, great numbers of handsome Heermann's Gulls, Brown Pelicans, and Brandt's Cormorants covered the high rocks off Point Bonita. Two does and three fawns were seen gracefully leaping up the chaparral covered hills, and a cottontail scurried under the brush. Altogether 57 species of birds were recorded.

—ELIZABETH S. LENNON, *Leader & Historian*

Trip to Moss Landing & Monterey—During the weekend of August 26 & 27, a group of about 25 members and their friends spent two very profitable days in the field. On Saturday, we met at the bridge over the Elkhorn slough and here was the King Eider which had been there since last winter. Everyone had an opportunity to study the bird at leisure as he swam around in front of us. Along Construction Road was seen a group of 6 Elegant Terns, and a walk into the Salt Works netted two Golden Plovers as well as a good variety of shorebirds including Knots.

After lunch the group re-assembled on the Coast Guard pier in Monterey and observed a single Marbled Murrelet that insisted on staying only a few yards from the pier where everyone could have a good look at him. We worked our way along the rocky shore from Monterey to Point Pinos and saw a few rocky shore birds before we broke up to drive to the mouth of the Carmel River where we re-assembled. At this point we saw 10 Lesser Yellowlegs, two Baird's Sandpipers as well as Sora and Virginia Rails and other shorebirds.

On Sunday morning a small group listened for owls and heard the Sereeh, Pygmy, and Great Horned Owls. At 9:30 the entire group left by boat, for Monterey Harbor to observe pelagic birds. The ocean was reasonably calm but there was a low fog that limited visibility somewhat. However, we did see a good variety of birds including a Skua which was sighted about 16 miles off Moss Landing. We also saw a few Pink-footed Shearwaters, 8 Ashy Petrels, a Fork-tailed Petrel, a Blackfooted Albatross, a Cassin's Auklet, a Marbled Murrelet, one each of Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers. There were thousands of Sooty Shearwaters in the area.

—GUY MC CASKIE & RICHARD STALLCUP, *Co-leaders & historians*

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

How England Stays Green by Bob Crosby, Oakland Tribune, August 17th, provides real inspiration for American master planners and conservationists who are just beginning to seriously plan for *green belts* around some of our major cities. Such policy was established by the London City Council in the 1930's and has been given national application since 1956. We were struck with amazement and satisfaction as we flew over these green belts and later drove through some last year, not only in the British Isles but on the continent. Farm land and recreational breathing space around big towns and cities is sacred. Yet in this country and even in park-and-recreation conscious California, vitally needed green belts, scenic easements, and zoning for agriculture cannot be secured except through a desperate battle with certain legislators and selfish interests. Better wake up, fellow Californians!

WATER FOWL REFUGES FIELD TRIP

On the weekend of November 4 and 5, there will be a joint field trip of the Golden Gate and Mt. Diablo Audubon Societies, to visit the waterfowl refuges in the Sacramento Valley. Saturday, we will meet at 10 A. M. and 1 P. M., at the headquarters of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. This is 7 miles south of Willows on Route 99 W. Those wishing to make the overnight trip should make reservations in or near Gridley which is across the valley on Route 99 E. Duck shooting season will be on so lodging will be in great demand.

A social evening is being planned, at Woodward's Country Kitchen, on Route 99 E, south of Gridley, on Saturday. This place serves excellent meals. Drop a card to the leader if you plan to join the group.

On Sunday, meet at the post office in Gridley, at 8 A. M., for a conducted trip to Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area southwest of Gridley. To reach this area from Gridley, drive west on Colusa Road approximately 4 miles, then turn south on Pennington Road to sign on right directing traffic to the refuge. It can also be reached from 99 E by turning west at Live Oak and driving until Sutter Buttes are reached, and then turning north. It is advisable to ask at service stations in Live Oak for directions and road conditions. The driving time from Bay Area points to Saturday meeting place is about 3 hours and distance 130 miles. Leader, Harry Adamson, 995 Carol Way, Lafayette, AT 3-2164.

HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

CHARLES HARPER PRINTS NOW AVAILABLE IN BERKELEY

Twenty unique bird paintings by the contemporary artist, Charles Harper, have just arrived at the Berkeley office of the National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way. In these interesting prints, Harper has cleverly combined art, science, and humor in his portrayal of "Bird Architects" and "Bird Populations." These silk screen prints are 13 x 18½ and sell for \$4.95.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Berkeley, Mr. C. A. Bullwinkel, Mrs. E. O. Erbentraut, Miss Thelma L. Hughes; from Oroville, Mr. Roy C. Fisk; from San Francisco, Mrs. Audrey W. Endress, Mr. Wellman G. Pierce, Miss W. Louise Tucker.

ROBERTA J. LONG, *Membership Chairman*

OCTOBER MEETING

The 522nd meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, October 12, at 7:30 P. M. at the Rotary Science Center, Lakeside Park, Oakland.

Our speaker will be Mrs. Frank Scott, who will present one of her very fine films, *California Water Birds*. Those of us who need a refresher course will find this picture very helpful as well as an enjoyable experience at the time when water bird population is at its peak along our coast.

A no-host dinner will precede the meeting at Conover's Cafeteria, Perkins at Grand Avenue, at six o'clock.

—MYRA J. BROWNE, *Program Chairman*

Mt. Diablo State Park, A Picture of Poverty by Cicely Christy, Sierra Club Yodeler, August, 1961, reports on results of a recent meeting between Club and Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council and Charles De Turk, Chief of the Division of Beaches & Parks. Mr. De Turk opposed any appropriations for Mt. Diablo expansion for two years because of commitments elsewhere. (Passage of a State Park Bonds Act would put an end to this impasse, of course.) There seem to be no plans to acquire adjacent state or federal lands which might be available.—The Sierra Club has created a picture-and-information panel on the Mt. Diablo situation, which is available for loan and display.

Now a message “for the birds”—our continental waterfowl production in the vast *duck cradle* domain of the upper midwest prairie states and Mid-Canada, is again in grave jeopardy due to droughts. Federal and State authorities are reducing shooting seasons and bag limits as drastically as they dare but we cannot expect wildlife and game authorities and sportsmen’s organizations to accomplish miracles by themselves, in averting the further decline of duck population. Audubon members might consider buying a Federal Duck Stamp or contributing to one of the national wildlife research foundations. And, without spending more than a few cents for postage, they can write their representatives in Congress urging that new restrictions be imposed on subsidies for wetland drainage and that more funds be allotted the proposed crash program for waterfowl producing wetlands acquisition, by loans from the federal treasury. Let us show that we appreciate ducks just as much as the shotgun hunters!

—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation*

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS—1961-1962

(Formerly Audubon Screen Tours)

Wednesday, October 25—Alfred M. Bailey *Subantarctic Isle*

Monday, November 27—Fran William Hall *Puerto Rico, U. S. A.*

Tuesday, January 16—Emerson Scott *Pika Country*

Wednesday, February 7—Howard Cleaves *Animals Are Exciting*

Monday, March 19—Cleveland P. Grant *Land of Early Autumn*

Berkeley Little Theatre, 8 P. M.

Application for tickets—Send to: Audubon Screen Tours
Box 103, Berkeley

Price: \$3.50 for series of five. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and enclose stamped, self-addressed envelope.

FIELD TRIPS FOR OCTOBER

On Sunday, October 1, to Dr. William L. Bender's ranch in Sonoma County. (See announcement in September Gull)

On Saturday, October 7, boat trip off Monterey coast. Boat will leave from Sam's Wharf, at 5 A. M. and return at 5 P. M. Park cars at Fisherman's Wharf Municipal Parking Lot out of the metered zone. Allow one half hour to park car, walk to Sam's Wharf and board boat. Wear warm clothing, bring lunch and seasick pills. Coffee will be furnished by boat owners. This trip will be at the time of heavy migration of ocean birds that travel on a route fairly close to Monterey. Black-footed Albatross, Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwater, Black and Ashy Petrel, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, and Skua have been seen here on previous trips. A group of expert birders from Los Angeles, headed by Arnold Small, will join us. Fare \$6.00 per person. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. and send to Harold G. Peterson, 3548-65th Ave., Oakland 5. Names will be placed on the passenger list in the order received. Co-leaders, Richard Stallcup, LO 9-3185, and Guy McCaskie, P. O. Box 214, Tahoe City.

On Tuesday, October 10, to Mills College. The campus with its great variety of planted trees provides a habitat for many birds. Wintering birds find food and shelter made to order so stay on. There is considerable fall coloring here, too, enough to make one feel that the scene is far removed from a busy city. Meet at 9:30 A. M., at the fountain, just inside the gate at Seminary Avenue and Mac Arthur Blvd. No. 57 and N busses make this stop. Leader, Hermine Van Gelder, TH 8-6417

On Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15, to Pinnacles National Monument in the coast range near Hollister, for an overnight campout. This monument is noted for its scenic beauty and early California history.

Birds and mammals abound in this protected area. At 1 P. M. on Saturday, Monument Headquarters will be the starting point for a hike into the caves area. Also, at 9 A. M. on Sunday, it will be the starting point of a conducted tour on foot. From the Bay Area drive via U. S. 101 from San Jose, to 2 miles south of Gilroy, then turn left on State 25 to right turn sign into Monument, 30 miles beyond Hollister. Distance from Bay Area 120 miles, driving time 3 hours. Leader, Olive Allen, 490 Orange Ave., Los Altos. Phone 9485639.

On Saturday, October 21, to Tomales State Park and vicinity. Land, shore, and water birds are numerous here, at this time. The varied habitat of fresh and salt water marshes, open fields, open water and wooded places attracts many species. Many birds will be migrating. Three Tropical (Couch's) Kingbirds were seen last year on this trip. 125 species were checked. Bring binoculars, telescopes, lunch and interested friends. Meet at the store in Inverness, at 9 A. M. Leader, Marie Mans, TH 8-5186.

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